

## SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, December 14, 1995  
Room BC-110, 10:30

**Present:** V. Baba, E. Besso, P. Bird, T. Bui (Chair), G. Garvey, D. Gold, F. Haghighat, K. Lipke, E. Loo (recording secretary), D. Markiewicz, R. Storms, S. Suen, M. Vipond

**Regrets:** J. Tomberlin

**Absent:** K. Bolh

### DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

SRC-12-14-95-A Agenda for the SRC Meeting of December 14, 1995  
SRC-11-16-95-M Minutes of the SRC Meeting of November 16, 1995  
SRC-12-14-95-D1 Proposed Reorganization of the Senior Administration - Document distributed to the Senate for their meeting of October 13, 1995, US-95-10-D3/D8  
SRC-12-14-95-D2 Memorandum dated November 27, 1995 from Dr. T. Bui to Dr. J. Lightstone - Draft of Revised Recommendations for the Report on Research Centres at Concordia University (SRC-12-14-95-D2)

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. Chair introduced and welcomed Professor Greg Garvey from Design Art Department, he is replacing Dr. Brenda Anderson.

#### **1. Approval of Agenda (SRC-12-14-95-A)**

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of November 16, 1995.**

The Minutes for the November meeting were approved.

### **3. Business arising from Minutes**

Chair noted that he has submitted a copy of the revised document entitled "Report on Research Centres at Concordia University" to the Vice-Rector, Academic (VRA). Chair also submitted to the VRA a proposal to fund the cost of infrastructure support for research centres by returning a portion of the frais indirect to the units/centres generating this fund (SRC-12-14-95-D2).

### **4. Report of the Chair**

Chair remarked that an American company Institute for Scientific Information is marketing a software package which can be used to obtain performance indicators for Canadian Universities. The package enables users to perform comparative studies of the performances among Canadian universities. The statistics contain the number of papers published in each discipline, the number of citations, and impact on the discipline, etc. Chair invited committee members to come and try the sample program which has been installed on a personal computer in the Office of Research Services. The sample program contains the statistics for three universities: Ottawa, Simon Fraser and Dalhousie. CREPUQ intends to buy the package and let Quebec universities have site licenses.

It came to the Chair's attention at the Computer Resources Committee that the government is putting a certain amount of money to improve/upgrade computer equipment in Quebec universities. The amount available for Concordia is about \$10 - \$11 M. The Vice-Rector, Services is soliciting input from the Deans.

### **5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services**

- SSHRC recently invited Concordia to participate in their review for the general research grant program. The report essentially underlined that there is a strong need for the universities to be awarded that there is a threat with the availability of the funds. The use of this fund will be more focus. The program itself will remain but instead of on an annual basis it will be a three year basis. The conclusion is that there would be a written feedback sent to the director of Institutional Planning at SSHRC regarding the use of the universities. E. Besso will be preparing a response to them at the beginning of January and she has invited committee members to send their feedback for feasibility purposes.
- At previous SRC meetings there has been request for communication to Fonds FCAR regarding applications processing in the past year. There was a meeting which took place two days ago, and they have touched on a number of points. The next step in this exercise is to encourage colleagues from other universities to send a collective statement to Fonds FCAR.
- The Horizons research brochure is still on hold, Jim Boothroyd, the writer who has composed the grant content was not available. E. Besso is following up with Barbara Black as the writer, she is the editor of the Concordia Thursday Report.
- E. Besso announced that Concordia has submitted an application to the new NSERC program called New Technology Partnership Program and this week she has received news that the award will be made to Dr. S. Hoa in the area of composites.

## **5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services**

- R. Mitchell and E. Besso attended the ADARUQ meeting last month. The focus was research as a service to the society. The workshop that E. Besso facilitated was particularly focus on items that could be reinforced, it was well attended and hope to pursue the feedback to Fonds FCAR, putting together collective feedback to pressure on potential sources of support to increase the level of activity. There was a key note speaker who was invited from a new Quebec Company called Innovitec, it is in the business of 'montage de projet' framing and building of all the necessary linkages and partnership and contributors for a relatively large activity to be feasible. The representative was the head of the conseil d'administration for Innovitec, he described their latest project a \$30 M in the area of telecommunications. E. Besso has invited him because of the strong interest in Distance Education in which Concordia has individual strengths. At Concordia, we have a lot of expertise but we are not working together and we do not have any institutional education that this is an area of strategic importance. It appears that we are at the 'fine pointe' of distance education and development technology both from the points of view and theory behind it, with our knowledge of hardware which has to do with satellites, telelearning, etc. There was a statement from the representative of Innovitec that they would be interested if Concordia has a champion and a project to propose. E. Besso is convinced that this is an area which Concordia can exploit.

## **6. Question Period**

With regard to the infrastructure support for research and research centres, P. Bird questioned whether the idea in the future is to roll together the CASA Funds and the infrastructure money.

Chair noted that when he wrote the proposal (SRC-12-14-95-D2) this was not his intention, his intention was to create a separate budget to support infrastructure for research. CASA funds are being used for direct cost of research in the Faculties.

## **7. Proposed Reorganization of the Senior Administration - Document distributed to the Senate for their meeting of October 13, 1995, US-95-10-D3/D8 (SRC-12-14-95-D1)**

Chair remarked that the document SRC-12-14-95-D1 contains two documents: US-95-10-D3 and US-95-10-D8. D3 was circulated at the Senate meeting of October 18 and D8 at the Senate meeting of November 3. The proposal on D3 concerning the restructuring of the Vice-Rector, Academic portfolio will be presented later after extensive consultation. The Vice-Rector, Academic has suggested that the Chair bring these documents to the SRC for discussion.

C. Suen remarked that in the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science, the Council does not want to have the position of the Associate Vice-Rector, Academic (Research) downgraded to the level of the Dean and they have voiced that should these two offices merged, it should be at least at the level of Associate Vice-Rector.

M. Vipond asked what are the links between Graduate Studies and Research, why is it so important to merge?

D. Gold remarked that in a sense research is the backbone for graduate studies. Graduate students in many departments are attracted by the research done in those departments. Grants are often used to fund the research of graduate students. There is a synergy between the two and without research activity, faculties would not be able to attract good graduate students.

**7. Proposed Reorganization of the Senior Administration - Document distributed to the Senate for their meeting of October 13, 1995, US-95-10-D3/D8 (SRC-12-14-95-D1)**

Committee members have expressed their concerns in the downgrading of the research portfolio. In an attempt to save cost, we may end up with an office which will put more emphasis on the administration of programs rather than placing more emphasis on the development of policies and new approaches to the support of research, seeking new potential, representation at policy making bodies provincial and federal levels. Both graduate studies and research are important to the university and they do generate revenue.

**8. For Information:**

Memorandum dated November 27, 1995 from Dr. T. Bui to Dr. J. Lightstone - Draft of Revised Recommendations for the Report on Research Centres at Concordia University

**9. Adjournment**

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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